



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Third District

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

December 17, 2007

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

## **MOTION TO SPONSOR OR PURSUE LEGISLATION TO ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO IMPOSE A FEE ON PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AT SUPERMARKETS AND RETAIL STORES (ITEM NO. 7, AGENDA OF DECEMBER 18, 2007)**

Item No. 7 on the December 18, 2007 Agenda is a motion by Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky to include in the County's 2007-08 State Legislative Agenda sponsorship or pursuit of legislation: 1) repealing the provision of AB 2449 (Section 42254(b)(2) of the Public Resources Code) which prohibits any public agency, including local governments, from imposing a fee on plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and retail stores; and 2) implementing a Statewide fee on plastic carryout bags, with the provision that funds raised would be directed to local governments on a per-capita basis for litter prevention and source reduction efforts; or establish Statewide benchmarks to reduce the consumption of plastic carryout bags and increase at-store recycling of plastic bags.

AB 2449 became effective July 1, 2007, and requires all large supermarkets (with gross annual sales of \$2 million or more) and retail stores (over 10,000 square feet) to make available at-store containers for the collection and recycling of plastic carryout bags, and reusable bags for purchase. Although this requirement may increase the recycling rate of plastic carryout bags (currently at less than five percent), no recycling rate benchmarks were established. Moreover, AB 2449 prohibits local governments from imposing fees on plastic bags or interfering with at-store plastic bag recycling programs.

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According to a report developed by the Department of Public Works (DPW), plastic bags constitute as much as 25% of the litter stream by weight, depending on location and other factors. Plastic carryout bags are particularly problematic for wildlife, especially marine and other aquatic life due to entanglement, suffocation, and ingestion. DPW indicates that the imposition of a per-bag fee has been proven highly effective in reducing the consumption of plastic bags and is supportive of this concept.

The County has existing policy to support legislation intended to reduce the number of single-use plastic bags used in the County to address the environmental and ecological impacts of inappropriate disposal. However, there is no existing policy to allow local governments to impose a fee on plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and retail stores, and no existing policy to support a Statewide fee on plastic carryout bags. **Therefore, a position on this recommendation is a matter for Board policy determination as there is no existing policy on the imposition of fees.**

WTF:GK  
DD:EW:hg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Public Works